

# CREATIVE MINORITY IN POLITICAL SOCIETY

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By: Ridha Ahida

## ABSTRACT

*Dalam banyak hal, perkembangan ilmu pengetahuan dan teknologi telah meningkatkan kemampuan manusia untuk menentukan masa depannya. Ilmu pengetahuan dan teknologi telah menyebabkan perubahan drastis dalam kehidupannya. Akan tetapi, dalam kenyataannya perubahan-perubahan tersebut telah menimbulkan kepahitan, keterasingan, dan bahkan kehancuran terhadap kehidupan manusia. Perubahan yang terjadi begitu cepat tidak hanya menimbulkan banyak manfaat tapi juga ancaman luar biasa terhadap kelangsungan hidup manusia. Tampaknya umat manusia belum siap untuk menghadapi perubahan-perubahan besar dari apa yang mereka ciptakan. Tulisan ini akan menguraikan tentang bagaimana persoalan perkembangan ilmu pengetahuan dan teknologi telah menimbulkan berbagai pengaruh yang besar bagi peradaban dan kehidupan umat manusia, baik yang positif maupun yang negatif.*

**Keywords:** *Minority, Majority, Society, Political, Civilization*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, human is trying to put the conflicts occurred between tradition and innovation, religion and science and between private and people's needs into peace. Human is facing many kinds of problems with the occurrence of fast changes including the whole world. The meaning of life and death, peace and war, power and strength, the relevance of family's institutions with nowadays life and the control and the increase of the use

of knowledge, are the problems caused by the chaos and uncertainty.

In many cases, the improvement of science and technology has increased human power to determine his future. The science applied in technology has brought huge differences in human lifestyle. Human today are capable of letting himself free from traditional environment. On the other side, however, at the same time it has put it in the cage of

modernization. The fast changes make it more difficult for human to face it. The confusion, tense and pressure due to the changes occurred has caused continuous depression in human life.

It is so pathetic to see that most human are not capable of doing things and do not have any idea of what to do in responding the challenge offered by these changes. Only few humans are willing to care and to participate to think about and do something to get out of the uncertain conditions. This small group of people is what Toynbee called the creative minority that is a small group of people that will always appear in every civilization. According to Toynbee, it is normal if a civilization grows, develops, and then dies. This process is very much influenced by creativity owned by the minority group exists in a civilization. This group is what Toynbee considered to take a big part in the process of human history.

## II. HUMAN AND CIVILIZATION

Among all that exists, human is the only historical creature ever because human is the center of history and the one that writes the history. If we say that a certain period marks a certain determining point in a history, then we all know and understand that it is related to human. History or human history is a uniqueness that makes

human as the doer and the maker of the history appear as something that is out of a coincidence, yet an essential one. This historicity states the way human exists and how he exists. Human uniqueness is that they exist by putting himself in history. One of the most significant characteristics is human consciousness of the existence of his historical dimension and also the consciousness of his world, because what essentially exists is what we can find in the world<sup>1</sup>.

The meaning of modern historicity is a unique characteristic of a consciousness toward the future's responsibility. In this concept, there is a concept about the past that is integrated, but the past is understood as a period that had been existed in a certain time rather than as something that no longer exists. The modern meaning of historicity is closely related to the meaning of work. Since human is essentially a "worker and builder", he is then a historical creature. Human is a worker creature and the work that becomes foundation of history is not merely providing materials, but in general, it is a human activity that lights something humane to his surrounding and in overcoming the natural facts of life.

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<sup>1</sup>Leahy, Louis. 1993. *Manusia, Sebuah Misteri*. Jakarta: Gramedia.

The limitation of human ability is very clear here; his existence seems to be crushed by various kinds of barriers; time and space. Moreover, everyone is also limited by his characteristics and the concrete possibilities to learn something. Nobody can learn everything and to become an expert of a certain thing, he has to sacrifice many fields of study. In short, all people see the gap between ambitions and the execution. Together, each person's uniqueness and limitation is united to reveal his personality to the world and to the other humans. Human is a communicative creature and alienation, everyone is social, either due to his limitation or his wealth.

Human is an omnipotence creature that is complex and growing. The exclusive destiny of human as a spirit with body expresses himself in an intelligence, that is in his no ethic pole and in his free willing, that is the affective and effective poles. Consequently, the first human development occurs in accordance with various nature laws that controls the future. However, if the development is just given to the future alone, it will destroy itself. It is due to the uncertainty of the most important essence of human. The human natural development will not only be achieved, but also can be preceded due to the wise intervention of intelligence and freedom. The

results of these interventions turn human into cultural creature. Culturing human is his destiny as an intellectual being. Every sense in human will still be open and contains relative uncertainty that can only gain its normal fulfilling and its control in the mind.

Culture is the exclusive development of human that derives from the use of intelligence and freedom that enables human to become the real human in the essence. Culture is a destiny completion and precedence. The completion of destiny will not be gained but through an intelligence and a freedom that is owned by the idealistic of proceeding ones ability. Culture has to be obtained and achieved by every developing human through a process of developing that has a principle in the intelligence and a freedom in every personality. Human will not be able to move forward in his exclusive life, either intellectually or morally, without the help of experiences kept by the previous generations in the past and the periodical deliverance of the knowledge obtained. To be able to achieved freedom that is the media for him to determine himself, human needs a discipline and a tradition.

### **III. CIVILIZATION: BETWEEN CHALLENGE AND RESPOND**

Human life is a struggle field between rationality and irrationality of human

traits. Therefore, human needs to be more creative in changing the universe where he lives and to add it with good things if necessary. Human has to realize that this universe is neither perfect nor satisfying. Many creatures are the predators for the others. If they are not directed and controlled, they can be the enemy, not only for human life, but also for every life in the universe.

In his life, human will always find differences between aim and reality. Challenge basically is not a new thing. This challenge has been experienced by the previous generation and will also be experienced by the next generation. Yet, the present generation will feel that the challenge faced in the present is more severe than in the previous one. The present generation has not been used to feel tortured by the differences between reality and aim. This feeling will not be felt if they did not run away from reality only due to the life experience and the sight of how hard it is to change the world into a better one.

The challenge caused by the difference between aim and reality is a must faced challenge for human. Thus, the challenge is as old as the human itself. However, this challenge is new in the sense that it has become more severe. The problem is how come it has become more severe? It is because by his-own effort, human has

obtained a better power to change the conditions of life, making it into a better or even worse condition compared to if we just let it changes naturally<sup>2</sup>.

The increasing power of human has also increased the responsibility and the feeling of being tortured. Therefore, human has to live to love, create and understand. By loving and understanding each other, human will find the way and is forced to create something. Nevertheless, the capacity to create also has burdened human with responsibility. The bigger the power he has to change the world into something closer to the condition wanted, the more tortured he is if he is failed to make it into reality. Some people think that the challenge caused by the difference between aim and reality becomes more severe because the minority of human nowadays that have developed a power to change the universe is still included into minority group.

Civilization is an exclusive combination of racial and geographical environmental factors. The mechanism of the birth of civilization is an influential relationship between challenge and respond. Environment continuously challenges society and society, through its creative minority

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<sup>2</sup> Toynbee, A.J. 1988. *Menyelamatkan Hari Depan Umat Manusia*. Yogyakarta: UGM.

tries to respond and solve the challenge. Challenge is always followed by respond. Society always moves and the speed of the movement will take human into civilization stage<sup>3</sup>.

The most important factor in history is challenge and human creativity. By the time human faces the challenge or difficulty, respond will appear and creativity will then take over the follow up action. The first challenge comes from physical environment while the next challenge is more like a humane environmental one. A too big challenge and that proceeds human capability will shorten the civilization. On the contrary, a too weak challenge will result in an abortive civilization (an unborn civilization). Civilization grows and develops if it is always well responded and on the contrary, it will be destroyed if it is not well responded or is not responded at all. Everything happens in a cycle that is a challenge will be responded and will then result in a new challenge that will also have to be responded. The stagnancy of this process will destroy a civilization that will then be replaced by a new one.

Civilization is a unity of some parts that are attached and influence

one another. One of the characteristics of civilization that is in the process of growing is if the whole aspects and social life activities are coordinated into a single social unity where social, political, and cultural aspects are well adapted due to the balance of social structure that is now growing.

Civilization is not a static condition that goes for every society, but it is an evolution movement. They are not only stagnant, but also irreversible without messing up the laws of the movement itself<sup>4</sup>. Human history is not united but it consists of cycles of civilization, each of it has its own history. The destiny of most of civilization if not all will soon or later meet its end.

The development of civilization is not caused by the development of technology and the increase of society's empowerment over physical environment. In every stage of development, we can somehow find various kinds of challenges and responds whereas, in the stage of destruction, we can find various kinds of responds but they are not able to answer or overcome the challenges. Civilization dies due to suicide, not because of a murder<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup>Sorokin. 1950. *Social Philosophies of an Age of Crisis*. London: Beacon Press.

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<sup>4</sup> Ankersmit. 1987. *Refleksi Tentang Sejarah*. Jakarta: Gramedia.

<sup>5</sup> Toynbee, A.J. 1961. *A Study of History*. London: Oxford University Press.

The development of a civilization is a must because of the birth of that civilization. On the other side, we can also find a never mature civilization because it is not succeeded in responding the challenges like physical and human environmental challenges.

The development of civilization means the development of personality, while self development is a process. The stagnancy of civilization means the stagnancy of the period of growth. After being stagnant, civilization will meet its destruction or it can also undergo a long period of stagnancy and finally collapses. Civilization growth, development and destruction are the creative result of the minority society.

#### **IV. PROS AND CONTRA CYCLE IN THE COMMUNITY'S POLITICS**

The idea proposed about independence, self-government and its institutions are the purposeful dishonesty that is meant to cheat people because if it is not treated that way, people will be ignorant to the struggle. The people from the government will then generalize the limitations they encountered personally into a public idea of oppression and in that form widen their efforts to obtain power out of the personal difficulties into a struggle for independence as a political idealism that goes entirely.

A local struggle of a group to get freedom from unfair special actions has been rationalized that in the theory. It becomes a struggle of the universal human kind to reach independence; a rationalization, same condition as other forms of idealizations that appear in critical moments, has enabled people to bear the burden and earn the power for a struggle that will happen for quite a long time to let themselves free from the injustice.

Someone thought that if we want to establish and maintain our own government politically, we should try so that the condition of industry and monetary will stay stable, if not increase, so that it will not in-automatic stand against the possessed political purpose. This position gives room for a large number of political opinion starting from political action to act on tendencies toward monopoly, that later on will gain the power that they should not have, like trying to socialize industry and monetary. According to the theory and practice, democracy demands a wide willingness in human characteristics for personal freedom, freedom from domination over the personal faith and attitude done by external sources. Combined with the belief that, in this case is faith that causes the struggle for independence, we might say that

the main reason to realize that willingness is the tendency of the people from the government to widen their power without limitation.

On one side, tradition causes the effort to preserve and strengthen the condition that has given it its birth. On the other side, however, tradition has slowed down the observation of what has really happened. There will be a probability of the creation of an imagination where the governmental institutions seem to be on the top of its power after it undergoes a backward. Nowadays, there is a thought that said that the impact of anti democratization of economic development has destroyed the essence of democracy that only with democratization or industrial and monetary socialization that politic democracy can be returned.

Politic democracy symbolizes a huge change of condition. The control of production and distribution of goods and services via any political institution will cancel everything that has been fought for. That kind of belief is still expressed with a special power when a movement, even the moderate one, is held to commit a social control over the world of business with the help of political action.

The complication of the previous situation about independence

has become clear when people got the possibility to keep and preserve the functions of the government. By noticing these basic conditions, the mechanism needed to preserve the government is simple. The small number and simple governmental mechanism will secure these free institutions. If the condition that has caused unemployment is as difficult as its condition now, political action will get its important function for the workers, whether for those who have jobs or those who are jobless; the thing that is not possessed by the political action if the condition is good and the opportunity to get job can be considered and secured.

The real action that in generally is only to lighten the condition temporarily is the proof that what are taken care of are only the symptoms, not the real cause. It is an evident that the basic economic condition is really hard to handle that the emergency actions must be done. The fact that those bad things are not eliminated and become worse viewed from different point of views has caused a reaction that expresses the agreement to go back to personal initiative, that is by letting the development of situation determined by people who still have power.

While the have is relatively secured, but they clearly do not feel sure due to the depression cycles that occur repeatedly. Populist move-

ments, honest plan, new plans in political life emerge along with the depression period on the side of the people who are directly impacted, such as farmers, labor and others. They must be guarded so that they will not be politically united due to their same political importance. When the activities in the have people of the radical side increases and especially when they failed to do a fundamental reparation of the situation, then the economic class activities will be more fortunate.

When restlessness occurs in a quite big scale, the obedience of the middle class can be secured. However, it is quite ironic to see the willingness of security of two different economic status groups unite to increase the readiness to free themselves from democratic actions. It is impossible if the class that is economically stronger can promote a dictatorship unless that class has a strong support from the people. It means the support from people who are relatively less fortunate. "Security" is a keyword that includes a number of interests and all of them are influential toward the condition related to maintaining democracy.

The possibility of economic condition that can not be anticipated when political forms start to take its part has caused a chaos and an

uncertainty in the work of governmental institutions and thus, has made the idea of democracy into a very tense situation. The changes of condition have been far beyond the special consequences that have been worried about as a result of industrial and trading development by inflicting losses to the farms. There is no clear limit of political movement continuation due to the chaos normally occurred in social movements.

The other impact of condition changes, that relatively can be taken care of and arranged by personal skill and personal view, must also be watched over. Someone's incapability in their special capacity of influencing the way something happens shows itself in the form of clusters to get protection from the impact of harmful impersonal power. The development of these organized clusters has its impact on the part of democratic teaching that believes that everyone has to be free and equal.

The controversy of interests, party and fraction especially is destroying, but it is a very normal problem for human. Therefore, the way and how the controversy is completed will influence everything at the same time. The first pertinent thing is studying the kind of cooperation scientifically. Theoretically, we can imagine that the



controversy between interests can bring a clearer admission over various interests involved and must be put in balance in every completion of problems. However, as long as the controversy is done based on both sides' assumptions, that the truth is already owned, a position that means a refusal to the need of testing a condition scientifically to determine the policies that should be taken, then competition between parties will be the source of chaos and disintegration.

#### **V. CREATIVE MINORITY: The Determining Minority of The History of Civilization**

The one that brings society from a challenge through a respond and then becomes a challenge again and from differentiation through integrity to differentiation again to grow a civilization is creative minority. The presence of creative minority is very pertinent in the process of growing, developing and destroying civilization. Creative minority is a small number of society that has a high capability, not a number of society that are oppressed and passive, that they can rule and move the majority of society in the process of history.

Civilization grows not because of racial or geographic environmental factors, but it is because of the exclusive combination of both that is the presence of creative minority in a

society and environment that is not too bad or even too good<sup>6</sup>. The group that has this condition grows as civilization, while the group that does not have it will stay in the lower stage of civilization.

Growth is the continuous lost and found of creativity in a charismatic minority of society that somehow succeeds to respond the new challenges. The civilization that is in the process of growing is a unity, where the society consists of creative minority who are free to be imitated and followed by proletariat majority inside and outside the society.

Creative minority does not appear spontaneously in every civilization. It appears due to the presence of creative individuals and activities that return to the society and enlightens them. Creative minority are individual that "step down the hill and out of their meditation" to integrate themselves in the society and enlighten the attitudes and behavior that are considered to be an oppression and cause society backward. Even so, the responds over many challenges done by creative minority will not work without the support of the majority of society, for example the society just stay silent, not responding or imitating the idea offered by the creative minority. The harmony of creative minority and the

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<sup>6</sup> Sorokin. 1950. *Op cit*

majority of society conversely will grow civilization.

On the contrary, the stagnancy and the passive condition of creative minority in proposing the ideas to respond the challenge will slowly lead civilization to destruction. The destruction of civilization is caused by creativity failure of the minority, where the challenge expressed can not answer the existence challenge, that it loses the unity in the society as a whole<sup>7</sup>.

Civilization begins to collapse when in the history; a creative minority society turns into a dominant minority. To get the position and the power that lost back due to the stagnancy of creativity in responding the challenges or to stay as the dominant minority in society, then creative minority will have to do many things including violence and tyrannical. The fatal changes of creative minority characteristics cause an antipathy from the proletariat (majority).

Proletariat no longer follows and admires the whole attitude of the creative minority. Furthermore, they try to eliminate the "low status" under the shadow of creative minority. Thus, the collapse of civilization causes controversy and war between classes in society's structure, between

inside proletariat (the majority of society members) with the outside proletariat outside the society that refuses the combination of the society because of the imbalance that can not be bridged in the period of growing and development of civilization<sup>8</sup>.

If in the period of growing, the creative minority is succeeded giving the response to the challenges occurred, then in the period of destruction, creative minority fails to do that. And because of the victory they get, creative minority then stops working. The creative minority begins to get stranded in the absoluteness of relative values that in the end they lose their charisma and no longer admired and imitated by the majority of society. The only way to save themselves and to bring civilization comes back to live according to creative minority that has placed the position as the ruler is by increasing the use of violence to control the inside and outside proletariat.

In the future, the enlightenment movement had done by the creative minority gets its bright spot in the east. Although the western world is in progress right now, but according to the cycle of civilization that are grow, develop and die, the western civilization is then experiencing the point of surfeited. In

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<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*

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<sup>8</sup> Toynbee. 1961. *Op cit*.

a moment, the collapse of the western world will occur and it seems like we have seen it nowadays where the creative minority no longer has any ideas of enlightenment. On the contrary, in the eastern world, a new intellectual movement has just appeared to reach and get a development like in the western world. Consequently, the combination between western way of thinking and spiritual attitude emerges<sup>9</sup>.

The collapse of a civilization will be replaced by a new one as the enlightenment of creative minority over the frozen done by the previous creative minority that has changed into a dominant minority in society. The birth of massive civilization occurs due to geographic environment that is not too bad or too good, the presence of creative minority and the reversible influence between challenge and hope.

If the environment is too bad, the development of massive civilization will be stuck or undergoes an abortion. If the environment is too soft, there will be no heavy challenge that will stimulate maximum creativity from society minority continuously. It is under this condition that is not too soft or too hard that creative minority will be

able to respond challenge well. The good respond toward the challenge will develop creativity from the society's minority that it will be able to reach the peak of civilization in the future toward the forming of a universal country and religion, marked by the existence of pluralism and repetition.

## VI. EPILOG

Creative minority is a foundation to do enlightenments in the society that will develop a civilization of human. Creativity and brilliant ideas possessed by creative minority are able to renew and even to change the frozen and the static condition of society.

Every civilization needs creative minority to rule, move and direct human (society) to the arrangements of the new world that is more stable and balance. The brilliant creativity is impossible to be possessed by the whole layers of society. This ability is only owned by people or certain group that has intellectual intelligence and charisma.

The minority creativity is limited and relative. In a certain point, stagnancy and the paralyzed ideas of creative minority occurs. The majority of society will also undergo saturation to always follow the ideas of creative minority, especially if the ideas proposed are no longer powerful to answer every challenge occurs.

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<sup>9</sup> Kartodirjo, Sartono (ed). 1981. *Elite Dalam Perspektif Sejarah*, Jakarta: LP3ES.

This controversial condition, where a challenge appears, needs a new respond and a new creative minority to replace the old one (creative minority that has changed into dominant minority) that is now powerless. Finally, a new civilization emerges to replace the old one. Therefore, a civilization will not last forever. The same thing also happens to creative minority that rules in it, it must be fallen and died. Thus, according to Toynbee, it is normal to

see a civilization grows, develops and finally dies, depends on the condition of the creative minority in that society. The problem is how long can a civilization last in the history of human civilization? The answer goes back to how far a creative minority in the society of that civilization is able to respond every challenge wisely, without any force to maintain its quo status in the middle of the society.

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*In many things, the progress of science and technology has increased man's power to determine his future. Science and technology has produced drastical changes in his life. Nevertheless, the changes, in fact, has resulted bitterness, alienation, and even destruction to him. The change that happens so fast, not only produces big useful but also a great threat toward his life continuity. Humankind is not ready yet to face great challenges from what he has created. This is only a small group of people, the creative minority, who are always "smart" in giving response every challenge in their lives. But, this minority will be "barren" if they don't get good response from the majority of the people or they have changed to be the authority dictators.*